



## CENTRAL COAST

### **Avila Lighthouse Suites**

The recently opened Avila Lighthouse Suites offers 54 two-room ocean view suites with private balcony/patio. The property features a Cape Cod theme and includes a meeting room that can accommodate up to 100 people. Guests will also enjoy complimentary continental breakfast, family play deck with ping pong, putting green and life-size chess, fitness room and outdoor heated pool and spa. Avila Lighthouse Suites is located at 550 Front Street in Avila Beach. Contact: Avila Lighthouse Suites, (805) 627-1900, [www.AvilaLighthouseSuites.com](http://www.AvilaLighthouseSuites.com).

### **Celebrity Chefs Promote Sustainable Seafood at Monterey Bay Aquarium**

To support its Seafood Watch Program, the Monterey Bay Aquarium will be putting on its two-day gourmet "Cooking for Solutions 2006" event May 19 and May 20. Eleven celebrity chefs from three nations will be present to share their passion for fine dining and environmentally sustainable living. The chefs will create gourmet dishes, host sustainable food and wine adventures, and present cooking demonstrations that feature sustainable seafood and organic ingredients. Friday evening will feature a reception with Rick Bayless, an honoree at the event from Frontera Gill/Topolobampo in Chicago, and a gourmet gala in the aquarium galleries. A Saturday reception will include the popular Sustainable Seafood Challenge, an "Iron Chef"-like event in which four chefs will prepare seafood dishes while Bayless and special guests provide commentary. Contact: Monterey Bay Aquarium, (866) 963 9644, [events@mbayaq.org](mailto:events@mbayaq.org), [www.montereybayaquarium.org](http://www.montereybayaquarium.org) or [www.cookingforsolutions.org](http://www.cookingforsolutions.org).

### **Dolphin Bay Hotel Now Open in Shell Beach**

A new luxury oceanfront resort, Dolphin Bay Hotel and Residences, is now open in Shell Beach, about 10 minutes south of San Luis Obispo. Dolphin Bay features 70 one-bedroom, two-bedroom and penthouse guest residences with some privately owned. Guests can dine on "coastal wine country" cuisine at the resort's Lido Restaurant, and do a little pampering at the spa at Dolphin Bay, "La Bonne Vie." A fitness center and enormous, infinity-edged pool and whirlpool spa overlook the Pacific. Contact: Dolphin Bay Hotel and Residences, (800) 516-0112 or (805) 773-4300, [www.dolphinbayhotelandresidences.com](http://www.dolphinbayhotelandresidences.com).

### **Half Moon Bay Coastside Eco-Tourism**

The Half Moon Bay Coastside Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau have announced a new eco-tourism campaign, aimed at educating travelers about the natural, historical and cultural wonders of the 80 miles of coast. The Half Moon Bay Coastside Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau is working with the farmers, fisherman and business community to offer visitors new and exciting hands-on activities. Activities

range from visiting marine reserves and small working farms to shopping on historic Main Street and fishing for wild salmon. A menu of adventures to help travelers plan their customized itinerary is supplied on the Web site, [www.halfmoonbaychamber.org/visiting\\_hmb/ecotourism.html](http://www.halfmoonbaychamber.org/visiting_hmb/ecotourism.html). Contact: Half Moon Bay Coastside Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau, Charise Hale McHugh, (650) 726-8380, [charise@halfmoonbaychamber.org](mailto:charise@halfmoonbaychamber.org), [www.halfmoonbaychamber.org](http://www.halfmoonbaychamber.org).

### **Jim Hall Kart Racing School Moves to Oxnard**

Oxnard is now the home of the Jim Hall Kart Racing School that moved from Ventura into its new state-of-the-art facility, including amenities such as a covered dining area, classroom, spectator stands and enclosed observation deck. The new location also boasts a new track that is wider, longer and has a double 180, a turn found mostly in European tracks. Contact: Jim Hall Kart Racing School, (805) 654-1329, [jhrkart@west.net](mailto:jhrkart@west.net), [www.jimhallkartracingschool.com](http://www.jimhallkartracingschool.com).

### **Mission San Miguel Arcangel Named as Historic Landmark**

The Mission San Miguel Arcangel has been named a National Historic Landmark, allowing the release of a \$300,000 federal grant to the California Missions Foundation, which will match it to produce \$600,000 in restoration funding. The mission was founded in 1797 by Father Fermin de Lasuen as the 16th mission. Indian artisans painted the walls and ceilings with ornate designs which still exist today. San Miguel Arcangel is one of the few missions that remains as originally constructed although it sustained significant damage during the San Simeon earthquake in December 2003 and is closed to visitors. The museum and gift shop are open to visitors. Contact: Mission San Miguel Arcangel, (805) 467-3256, [www.missionsanmiguel.org](http://www.missionsanmiguel.org).

### **Monterey County Hotel News**

*The Captain's Inn* at Moss Landing has completed a new overlook deck on the Old Salinas River Salt Marsh, where guests can view birds, harbor seals and sea otters, sunsets or plan small wedding ceremonies. The deck, like the B&B, was constructed with a maritime theme, crafted from a fisherman's dory, complete with a bow and stern. Contact: Captain's Inn, Melanie Gideon, (831) 633-5550, [res@captainsinn.com](mailto:res@captainsinn.com).

*Ventana Inn* is offering a "Let's Go 'Shroomin'" package which includes two nights accommodations, guided mushroom hunts, a mushroom menu lunch at Cielo, dinner for two, a "Ventana Discovery" morning walk, two 50-minute spa treatments, continental breakfast and daily yoga session. Contact: Ventana Inn, (800) 628-6500 or (831) 667-2331, [reservations@ventanainn.com](mailto:reservations@ventanainn.com), [www.ventanainn.com](http://www.ventanainn.com).

### **"My California: Views from the Golden State"**

The National Steinbeck Center Museum is presenting its third juried exhibition titled "My California: Views from the Golden State," March 10 through May 28. For this, artists were asked to present a two-dimensional visual concept of their cultural heritage as they interpreted their California experience and what it means to become part of the California landscape. Contact: National Steinbeck Center, (831) 775-4721, [www.steinbeck.org](http://www.steinbeck.org).

**Cambria Pines Lodge**

The Cambria Pines Lodge in Cambria is now taking reservations for 27 new luxury lodging units that were unveiled early this year. The Craftsman-style cottages are situated on a five-acre parcel apart from the other Cambria Pines Lodge rooms. Seven deluxe suites are freestanding cottages that include a sitting room, large master bedroom, woodstove fireplace, and private fenced-in patio with landscaping. The remaining 20 superior rooms have a shared wall with one other unit and feature two queen beds, private patio and fireplace. Contact: Cambria Pines Lodge, (800) 445-6868 or (805) 927-4200, [www.CambriaPinesLodge.com](http://www.CambriaPinesLodge.com).

**Central Coast Outdoors**

Central Coast Outdoors of Morro Bay announced recently a “memorandum of understanding” for kayak tours and rentals with Associated Pacific, the concessionaire of State Park Marina. Central Coast Outdoors will run its kayak eco-tours of Morro Bay out of State Park Marina. The company purchased a new fleet of high quality recreational kayaks and will store them at the marina. When the kayaks are not being used for tours, they will be available for rent from the kayak rental shop at State Park Marina. The company also added two multi-day bicycle tours and a photography eco-tour program. A five days/four nights bicycle tour covers the wild coastline and elephant seals north of Cambria, Edna Valley wine country, and Morro Bay. Custom-designed photography eco-tours of Morro Bay are scheduled with award-winning photographer Abe Perlstein. Contact: Central Coast Outdoors, (888) 873-5610 or (805) 528-1080, [www.centralcoastoutdoors.com](http://www.centralcoastoutdoors.com).

**Fort Ord**

An impressive network of new trails including 86 miles of scenic mountain bike trails and roads is now open on the former Fort Ord military base. Experts can head for Hurl Hill Trail or Staircase Trail, often compared to the great rocky trails of Moab, Utah. Flat tracks winding around ponds and forests festooned with wildflowers cater to the leisure rider. Maps are available at trailhead entrances along Highway 68 and Reservation Road. Contact: Fort Ord, (831) 394-8314, [www.ca.blm.gov](http://www.ca.blm.gov).

**Hearst Ranch**

The Hearst Corporation, American Land Conservancy, and California Rangeland Trust have partnered with the State of California to preserve the historic Hearst Ranch—128 square miles of pristine rangeland in San Luis Obispo County that includes 18 miles of spectacular coastline along scenic Highway 1. Thanks to this partnership, the State of California now owns 13 miles of coastline for public access, including nearly 1,000 acres along Highway 1. The state will also receive an irrevocable easement for public access to additional coastal land to complete a critical 18-mile segment of the California Coastal Trail through Hearst Ranch. Also protected in the partnership are 80,000 acres of ranchland east of Highway 1. Hearst Ranch neighbors Hearst Castle. Contact: California State Parks, (800) 777-0369 or (916) 653-6995, [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov).

**Monterey Peninsula Airport**

It's Mile High to Monterey, Salt Lake to the Salinas Valley, and the sparkle of Las Vegas to the serenity of Big Sur, all in less than three hours. New daily non-stop flights connecting the Monterey Peninsula Airport with Salt Lake, Denver and Las Vegas took to the skies this last summer. United Express's Denver route makes the coastal destination more accessible from major cities such as New York, Miami, Chicago and Washington, D.C. United Airlines links Monterey with San Francisco and Los Angeles. America West, flying the Las Vegas - Monterey connection, offers daily Phoenix - Monterey service. The Salt Lake City flight on Delta is the airline's first into Monterey. For current flight schedules and information, visit the "Fly Monterey" page at [www.montereyinfo.org](http://www.montereyinfo.org). Contact: Monterey Peninsula Airport, (831) 648-7000, [www.montereyairport.com](http://www.montereyairport.com).

### **Paso Robles Inn**

The new Jesse James Building at the Paso Robles Inn features 18 luxury rooms, including six two-room suites. The 12 standard rooms upstairs have private balconies overlooking the City Park, while the six deluxe suites downstairs each have private spa tubs filled with hot mineral spring water. The new building is named for the notorious outlaw and nephew of one of Paso Robles' founders, Drury James. The Jesse James Building is surrounded by newly expanded gardens, including a koi pond. Contact: Paso Robles Inn, (800) 676-1713 or (805) 238-2660, [www.PasoRoblesInn.com](http://www.PasoRoblesInn.com).

### **Ronald Reagan Presidential Library**

The Air Force One Pavilion at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library is now open daily to the public. Visitors to the Reagan Library will tour the current museum that highlights the life and times of President and Mrs. Reagan before entering the Air Force One Pavilion that celebrates President Reagan's vision of diplomacy and tells the story of his leadership role in ending the Cold War. Guests will tour the Air Force One that served President Reagan and six other presidents from 1973 to 2001, and they will view a Marine One helicopter and Presidential Motorcade featuring President Reagan's 1984 parade limousine. An audio tour offers a unique glimpse into American history through the use of President and Mrs. Reagan's voices, providing interesting, informative and educational enhancements to the exhibit. Contact: Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, (800) 410-8354 or (805) 577-4000, [library@reagan.nara.gov](mailto:library@reagan.nara.gov), [www.reaganlibrary.com](http://www.reaganlibrary.com).

### **San Luis Obispo Children's Museum**

The grand opening of the new San Luis Obispo Children's Museum is scheduled for fall 2006. The 8,400 square-foot, three-story facility at 1010 Nipomo Street next to the head of the Creekwalk in downtown San Luis Obispo is conveniently located near restaurants and retail shops. The Museum's "town square" features a 26-foot-high clock tower climbing experience, a ride on a trolley and a child-size replica of San Luis Obispo's famous farmer's market. Children ages four and under can play and explore in an expanded early childhood learning space, complete with a larger-than-life size replica of BRIO's® wooden toy engine. Guests can also celebrate their birthday at the Museum and purchase mementos of their visit in the museum's gift store. The new San Luis Obispo Children's Museum is a place where children and adults can explore, create and discover

together. Contact: San Luis Obispo Children's Museum, (805) 545-5874, [www.slokids.org](http://www.slokids.org).

### **Segway by the Sea**

Visitors have a new way to explore the Monterey Bay Recreation Trail, now that Segway by the Sea has opened on Cannery Row. The segway, a popular two-wheeled, self-balancing, electric-powered transportation device, is designed to respond to the standing rider's movements. Segway by the Sea offers the scooter-like machines for rental and purchase. Cannery Row ([www.canneryrow.com](http://www.canneryrow.com)) is home to more than 80 shops, restaurants and attractions. Contact: Segway by the Sea, [segwaybythesea@comcast.net](mailto:segwaybythesea@comcast.net), (831) 238-7044, [www.segwaybythesea.com](http://www.segwaybythesea.com).

### **Stevenson House**

Closed since 2001 for renovations and seismic retrofitting, the Stevenson House in Monterey's historic downtown is now ripe for visitors. Robert Luis Stevenson lived in this beautiful building in 1879 when it was the French Hotel and his time in the area inspired Treasure Island and Old Pacific Capital. The first floor features Stevenson's artifacts on display for the first time, as well as works by local artists who frequented the building from 1870-1930. Free guided tours are available. Contact: Monterey State Historic Parks, (831) 649-7118, [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov).